

According to the *Résumé* of Congressional Activity, as of December 1, the Senate had passed 391 measures as compared to 290 in 2014 and 246 in 2013. While this year's number compares favorably to the two previous years, the Senate's productivity is best measured not by a simple count of measures passed, in which a post office naming counts the same as a comprehensive budget for the entire Federal Government, but instead by the sort and substance of measures passed. This measure paints by far the best picture of the good work done by the Senate in the first year of our new Republican Senate majority.

Instead of wasting the Senate's precious time on political show votes, the new majority leadership has focused the Senate's consideration on measures that can actually pass, which almost always require bipartisan support. We have also made sure to fulfill Congress's most basic fiscal management responsibilities. We passed the first bicameral budget since 2009 and the first budget that balances in 14 years. Based on that budget blueprint, the Appropriations Committee passed all 12 appropriations bills for the first time since 2009. While the minority unfortunately chose to block numerous attempts we made to pass these bills on the floor through regular order, we struck a multiyear bipartisan budget deal to last through the rest of the Obama administration. Passing this legislation ward off the threat of another shutdown or a disastrous default on our debt. We have also struck a deal on an omnibus spending bill for next year that, while imperfect, makes important progress in a number of areas, such as repealing the antiquated oil export ban to create jobs at home and ward off the influences of Vladimir Putin and other dangerous rogues abroad, increasing resources for our military at a time of great threat, strengthening the Visa Waiver Program to protect against terrorists, and provisions to bar the transfer of Guantanamo detainees to American soil.

As we look forward to next year, our leadership has built a pathway to return to regular order in the appropriations process, allowing Congress to fulfill our constitutional duty to oversee the executive branch through the power of the purse.

The Senate also overcame a bitter partisan dispute to pass the annual National Defense Authorization Act to further our most basic responsibility to provide for the common defense. Under the leadership of our Armed Services Committee, with colleagues on both sides, we passed into law a bill that contains a wide variety of critical defense items, from acquisition reform to aid to Ukraine. Moreover, among the most important accomplishments of the year have been the long-term challenges tackled by the Senate. Over the past few years, Congress earned a well-deserved reputation for kicking the can down the road on a number of key

issues that affect Americans' lives in crucial ways—from our commutes to our health care to our children's education. This year Congress has taken a number of crucial steps to end this cycle of irresponsible delays. Instead of passing yet another patch to the highway trust fund, we passed the first long-term highway bill in a decade; instead of leaving seniors in a lurch with yet another doc fix, we permanently fixed how Medicare reimburses physicians and passed a real down payment on real entitlement reform; instead of consigning ourselves to a backseat role in shaping the international economy of the future, we passed the first trade promotion authority legislation since 2002; instead of waiting until the last minute to pass another extension of critical tax breaks, we have struck a deal to make much important tax relief permanent and provide multiyear extensions of others, providing vital certainty to business and family budgets; and instead of leaving our schools webbed in by No Child Left Behind and the Obama administration's conditioned waivers, we passed the Every Student Succeeds Act, which the *Wall Street Journal* called the greatest devolution of power to the States in a quarter century.

Moreover, we pushed against the Obama administration's most egregious overreach, preparing the way to reverse them under a future President. We passed Congressional Review Act resolutions to repeal the President's most onerous and job-killing labor and environmental regulations, and most importantly, we passed the Senate's first repeal of ObamaCare.

Finally, after the turmoil in the confirmation process in recent years, we have moved at a deliberate pace in examining the President's nominees. Despite the spurious claims of some on the other side, our record on confirmations fits favorably within historical norms. As of December 10, 316 of President Obama's judicial nominees have been confirmed, constituting more than 37 percent of the actual active Federal bench.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to finish my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. I thank the Presiding Officer.

By comparison, only 292 of President George W. Bush's nominees had been confirmed at the same point in his tenure, constituting less than 35 percent of the active judiciary. There are only 65 judicial vacancies today. Vacancies have been lower in only 13 of the 83 months, or less than 16 percent of the time, that this President has held office. During 2015, the average number of judicial vacancies has been 58, the lowest average for any year of the Obama Presidency.

This is a record of achievement that speaks for itself, one that easily shows

why PolitiFact awarded the minority leader three Pinocchios for his accusations that the Senate, under our new Republican majority, has been unproductive by historical standards. While there have been, no doubt, many bumps in the road—and we still need more mutual restraint of both the minority and the majority—there should be no doubt that our new Republican majority has the Senate back to work for the American people.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the extra time.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, on November 2, 2015, the President signed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 into law, H.R. 1314, P.L. 114-74. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 266 to 167 and the Senate by a vote of 64 to 35. Section 101 of H.R. 1314 redefined the term "discretionary spending limit" to add \$50 billion in budget authority for fiscal year 2016. This increase was split evenly between defense and nondefense spending. More specifically it increased the fiscal year 2016 discretionary spending limit for the revised security category to \$548.091 billion in new budget authority and the revised nonsecurity category to \$518.491 billion in new budget authority. Section 3404 of the fiscal year 2016 budget resolution provides me with the authority to adjust levels and allocations for such changes in definitions in enacted legislation. I am therefore adjusting the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations and the budgetary aggregates to reflect the spending limits of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

In addition to the changes triggered by P.L. 114-74, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, allows for various adjustments to the discretionary spending limits, while sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. The Senate will soon consider H.R. 2029, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016. This bill includes numerous provisions that meet the terms laid out in section 251 of BBEDCA to generate a change in the discretionary spending limits. As such, this spending is eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act.

Earlier this year I made adjustments to budgetary aggregates and the Committee on Appropriations' allocation to reflect provisions in appropriations bills that qualified for cap adjustments under BBEDCA that were being considered on the Senate floor. The adjustments I make today take these adjustments into consideration and reflect the appropriate level for adjustments for considering this Omnibus appropriations bill.

Section 3102 of S. Con. Res. 11 provides a separate allocation to the Committee on Appropriations for overseas contingency operations, OCO/global war on terrorism, GWOT, spending. Furthermore, the budget resolution provides the chairman of the Committee on the Budget the authority to change levels, aggregates, and allocations related to OCO/GWOT based on new information. As such, I am making the appropriate adjustments to bring allocation levels in line with the amounts provided in H.R. 2029.

As a result, I am increasing the budgetary aggregate for 2016 by \$36,072 million in budget authority and reducing the aggregate for outlays by \$997 mil-

lion. I am increasing the fiscal year 2016 non-OCO/GWOT allocations to the Appropriations Committee by \$25,000 million in budget authority for defense, revised security category, \$33,666 million in budget authority for non-defense, revised nonsecurity category, and \$15,722 million in general purpose outlays. I am also reducing the OCO/GWOT allocation to the Committee on Appropriations by \$22,594 million in budget authority and \$16,719 million in outlays.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

| REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES | |
|---|-----------|
| (Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3404 of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016) | |
| \$s in millions | 2016 |
| Current Spending Aggregates: | |
| Budget Authority | 3,009,557 |
| Outlays | 3,067,943 |
| Adjustments: | |
| Budget Authority | 36,072 |
| Outlays | — 997 |
| Revised Spending Aggregates: | |
| Budget Authority | 3,045,629 |
| Outlays | 3,066,946 |

REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016
(Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3404 of S. Con. Res 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016)

| \$s in millions | 2016 |
|---|-----------|
| Current Allocation*: | |
| Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority | 523,091 |
| Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority | 494,191 |
| General Purpose Outlays | 1,157,345 |
| Adjustments: | |
| Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority | 25,000 |
| Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority | 33,666 |
| General Purpose Outlays | 15,722 |
| Revised Allocation*: | |
| Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority | 548,091 |
| Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority | 527,857 |
| General Purpose Outlays | 1,173,067 |

* Excludes amounts designated for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to Section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

| Memorandum: Detail of Adjustments Made Above | Regular | Program Integrity | Disaster Relief | Emergency | Total |
|---|---------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------|
| Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority | 25,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25,000 |
| Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority | 25,000 | 1,523 | 7,143 | 0 | 33,666 |
| General Purpose Outlays | 13,788 | 1,311 | 388 | 235 | 15,722 |

REVISION TO OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/
GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM ALLOCATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR
2016
(Pursuant to Section 3102 of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on
the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016)

| \$s in millions | 2016 |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Current OCO/GWOT Allocation: | |
| Budget Authority | 96,287 |
| Outlays | 48,798 |
| Adjustments: | |
| Budget Authority | — 22,594 |
| Outlays | — 16,719 |
| Revised OCO/GWOT Allocation: | |
| Budget Authority | 73,693 |
| Outlays | 32,079 |

OMNIBUS LEGISLATION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise to speak on the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, otherwise known as the omnibus bill.

I wish to report to my colleagues in the Senate that the House has passed the bill this morning with a robust vote of 316 to 113. Three months ago it was unclear if we would be at this positive point. We were uncertain if we could get a budget deal that would lift the caps for defense and nondefense spending, it was unclear if we could cancel sequester, and it was unclear if we could avoid a government shutdown.

I am happy to say today that we have completed our work, and we have done it in the traditional style of this institution and also of the Appropriations Committee and by working on a bipartisan basis. The chairman of the committee, the Senator from Mississippi,

Mr. COCHRAN, and I worked across the aisle to get the job done. I thank him for the leadership he provided the committee, for his professionalism, and for the ability and the fact that we could work, both he and I, together. I thank both of our staffs for working with civility and candor.

For the third year in a row, we left no appropriations bill behind. We negotiated and we compromised. We compromised without capitulation of our principles, which has always been a strong tradition of the Appropriations Committee.

As we bring this bill to the floor, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill. I want to do it on the basis of content and on the basis of merit.

Now, I will tell you what this bill does. First of all, it does a lot to protect the United States of America. We know that right now America feels on edge. We know our leadership needs to provide clarity, consistency, and specificity, but most of all, we need to provide the resources that our institutions need so they can protect our country.

This bill provides \$606 billion for the national defense of the United States of America and to support, train, and equip our troops; to deal with the new threats of biosecurity and the rising efforts of ISIL so we can follow through with our vow to defeat and destroy them.

We have a must-do list to make sure our troops have the best weapons and know that the troops and families are supported. We looked out for their health care and Tricare, and we looked

out for the food that they need to buy in their commissaries.

We know that protecting America is not only accomplished in the Defense Department. It also lies in the important agencies that do the tough work. We have adequately capitalized the State Department and provided money for embassy security so we can protect our embassies and those who work with them abroad. We have also funded Homeland Security. We have approved close to \$11 billion so that the Coast Guard can protect our ports and waterways, and we have added \$50 million in new grants to counter violent extremism. We also made sure that we have given TSA, or the Transportation Security Administration, the equipment and people it needs to protect travelers with all of the airport screeners that have been requested. At the same time, we have funded the FBI, which is doing such an able job of rooting out the terrorists, including the lone wolf threats that are emerging in our own country.

I want to particularly do a shout-out to the FBI in the Baltimore district for uncovering a plot in our own home State of Maryland where someone was organizing and planning a lone wolf effort.

I also wish to thank my colleagues for what we did in the budget deal. This bill provides \$65 billion more to meet our national security needs, support compelling human needs, and promote the middle class. We made sure we kept our promises to our veterans. We have a \$1.3 billion increase for veterans health care to meet their health